

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3077

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
CHAIR & PRESIDING OFFICER
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VICE CHAIR
ROMY M. CACHOLA
FLOOR LEADER
CHARLES K. DJOU
MIKE GABBARD
NESTOR R. GARCIA
BARBARA MARSHALL
GARY H. OKINO
ROD TAM

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING TO DISCUSS THE PRIORITIES OF THE COUNCIL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM
2nd FLOOR, HONOLULU HALE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

CALL TO ORDER

The informational meeting was called to order by Council Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz at 2:09 p.m. with Councilmembers Djou, Kobayashi, Marshall, and Tam present. Councilmember Cachola arrived at 2:10 p.m. and Councilmember Okino arrived at 2:17 p.m. Councilmembers Gabbard and Garcia were excused.

STAFF PRESENT

Kimberly Ribellia, Senior Advisor to Council Chair Dela Cruz
Denise C. De Costa, City Clerk
Clarice Kumura, Supervisor of Council Assistance, City Clerk's Office
Diane Hosaka, Director of the Office of Counsel Services
Karen Takahashi, Committee Clerk, City Clerk's Office

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being one correction noted by Councilmember Marshall of the word Prioritizing to Priorities, the minutes of the January 29, 2004 Informational Meeting was approved, as amended, by the 5 members present.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR FY 2005 LETTER

Council Chair Dela Cruz again cited Section 2-102 from the Revised City Charter of Honolulu, which he believed could be used as a guide in fulfilling the goals of PLAN -- "All city powers shall be used to serve and advance the general welfare, health, happiness, safety and aspirations of its inhabitants, present and future, and to encourage their full participation in the process of governance."

DRAFT #1 LETTER

The following letter was circulated to Councilmembers for their review:

February 11, 2004

Honorable Jeremy Harris, Mayor
City & County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mayor Harris:

Subject: Council Priorities for FY 2005

As you know, the Council has embarked on an ambitious program to help the Administration (present and future) ensure the greatness of our City. To that end, we would greatly appreciate it if you would incorporate the following Council priorities into the Fiscal '05 budget.

- 1) The Council will not support any increase in the residential property tax rate this year. The Council urges the Administration to identify other sources of funding for the City. Other sources may include: federal funds, grants, considering creative ideas successfully used by other major municipalities to enhance city revenues, lobbying the State Legislature for taxing authority or other fair share funds, and developing further private/public partnerships.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

- 2) The Council considers the following to be core services:
(In no particular order)

- a. Honolulu Fire Department
- b. Honolulu Police Department
- c. Parks
- d. Road Maintenance
- e. Sewer System
- f. Solid Waste Management
- g. Transportation
- h. Upgrading City technology
- i. Water

These services must be funded before consideration is given to other services of the city.

- 3) The Council intends to reduce future debt service by stringently limiting new CIP projects. The Council will consider new CIP project FIRST for their contribution to public health and safety needs.
- 4) The Council supports streamlining of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process for efficient completion of projects and notifies the Administration that the policy of waiting until the very last minute to award contracts is no longer acceptable.
- 5) It is the Council's desire to explore efficient and cost-effective technologies to address our solid waste stream.
- 6) The Council urges the use of goals and benchmarks for evaluation of the efficiency of departmental budgets.
- 7) The Council will require additional audits of City departments and functions.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

- 8) The Council seeks a partnership with the Administration for creating a plan to address short-term and long-term funding issues.
- 9) The Council supports reducing expenses and losses for the City, for example, captive insurance.
- 10) Since the City is no longer in the housing business and property values have gone up, we should identify all city properties and develop strategies for the disposition those properties no longer needed.

It is not the Council's intent to, in any way, usurp the authority of the Administration in managing the city. We simply desire to work as partners. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the Council's priorities and look forward to working together for the benefit of our people.

Sincerely,

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

FINALIZED LETTER

After extensive deliberation on the Draft #1 letter by Councilmembers, the final letter to Mayor Harris, numbered Council Communication 42, is as follows:

February 12, 2004

Honorable Jeremy Harris, Mayor
City & County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mayor Harris:

Subject: Council Priorities for FY 2005

As you know, the Council has embarked on an ambitious program to help the Administration (present and future) ensure the greatness of our City. To that end, we would greatly appreciate it if you would incorporate the following Council priorities into the Fiscal '05 budget.

- 1) The Council does not support any increase in real property tax rates and will not pass an increase in the residential real property tax rate. The Council urges the Administration to identify other appropriate sources of funding for the City. Other sources may include: federal funds, grants, considering creative ideas successfully used by other major municipalities to enhance city revenues, lobbying the State Legislature for home rule authority or other fair share funds, and developing further private/public partnerships.
- 2) The Council considers the following to be core services:
(In no particular order)
 - a. Public Safety
 - b. Parks
 - c. Road Maintenance
 - d. Sewer System
 - e. Solid Waste Management

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

- f. Transportation
- g. Upgrading City technology
- h. Water

These services must be funded before consideration is given to other services of the city.

- 3) The Council intends to reduce future debt service by stringently limiting new CIP projects. The Council will consider new CIP project FIRST for their contribution to public health and safety needs and will not consider land acquisition for other than those related to public health and safety.
- 4) The Council supports streamlining of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process for efficient completion of projects and notifies the Administration that the policy of waiting until the very last minute to award contracts is no longer acceptable. The Council also urges improvements to the procurement process to minimize change orders and cost overruns.
- 5) The Council reaffirms its FY 2004 intent to reduce the solid waste stream through recycling and its desire to explore efficient, cost-effective and new technologies. The Council urges the Administration to speed up efforts to plan for new cost-effective technologies.
- 6) The Council urges the use of goals and benchmarks for evaluation of the efficiency of City departmental budgets.
- 7) The Council will continue to pursue audits of City departments and functions.
- 8) The Council seeks a partnership with the Administration for creating a plan to address funding issues, including major expenditures which might not appear in the current budget.
- 9) The Council supports reducing City expenses and losses, including creative measures such as captive insurance.

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

- 10) Since property values have gone up, we should identify all City properties and develop strategies for the disposition of those properties no longer needed. The City should continue to exit the housing business and use the proceeds FIRST to pay off housing debt while maintaining the City's inventory of affordable rental units for at least the next 30 years.

It is not the Council's intent to, in any way, usurp the authority of the Administration in managing the City. We simply desire to work as partners. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the Council's priorities and look forward to working together for the benefit of our people.

Sincerely,

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Romy M. Cachola

Charles K. Djou

Mike Gabbard

Nestor R. Garcia

Ann H. Kobayashi

Barbara Marshall

Gary H. Okino

Rod Tam

COMMUNICATION RECEIVED

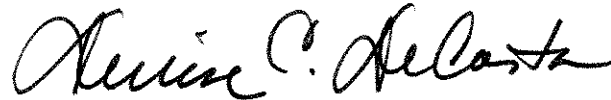
Arvid Youngquist (M-205)

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Wednesday, February 11, 2004

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise C. De Costa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" being the most prominent part.

DENISE C. DE COSTA
City Clerk

Date Approved

FILED 10/24/06